

**Amendments to the Claims**

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-10 (canceled).

Claim 11 (new): An optical module, comprising:

    a circuit carrier;

    a semiconductor element contained in a housing disposed on said circuit carrier; and

    a lens unit configured for projecting electromagnetic radiation along an optical axis onto said semiconductor element;

    said housing with said semiconductor element and said lens unit, respectively, forming two components;

    a spacer element disposed outside the optical axis between said housing of said semiconductor element and said lens unit.

Claim 12 (new): The optical module according to claim 11, wherein said spacer element is a foil or a washer.

Claim 13 (new): The optical module according to claim 11, wherein said spacer element is a circular washer.

Claim 14 (new): The optical module according to claim 11, wherein said spacer element is a punched part.

Claim 15 (new): The optical module according to claim 11, wherein said spacer element has adhesive properties on at least one side thereof.

Claim 16 (new): The optical module according to claim 11, wherein said spacer element is adhesive on both sides thereof.

Claim 17 (new): The optical module according to claim 11, wherein said spacer element forms a part of a set of elements.

Claim 18 (new): The optical module according to claim 17, wherein said set of elements comprises two or more spacer elements with a uniform basic thickness and mutually different nominal thicknesses.

Claim 19 (new): The optical module according to claim 18, wherein said nominal thicknesses of said two or more spacer elements sequentially increase or reduce said uniform basic thickness.

Claim 20 (new): The optical module according to claim 18, wherein said spacer elements are formed with nominal dimension changes from +/- 0.005 mm.

Claim 21 (new): The optical module according to claim 18, wherein said spacer elements are formed with nominal dimension changes from +/- 0.01 mm to +/- 0.03 mm.

Claim 22 (new): The optical module according to claim 11, wherein said at least one spacer element is simultaneously formed as a diaphragm or a lens hood.

Claim 23 (new): The optical module according to claim 11, wherein said spacer element is made from a plastic.

Claim 24 (new): The optical module according to claim 11, wherein said spacer element is made from a thermoplastic material.

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**Claim 25 (new): An optical system, comprising an optical module in accordance with claim 11.**